



News Release

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UNITED WATER IDAHO FILES WATER RIGHT APPLICATIONS

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United Water Idaho, the largest municipal water provider in the state, has filed applications with state water managers seeking to change 112 of the company's water rights, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced today.

The application package reflects a water planning process designed to provide UWI with water rights for reasonably anticipated future needs in an expanding municipal service area. Supporting material supplied by UWI with the applications documents the company's anticipated water needs over the next 50 years.

The applications are being filed as an Integrated Municipal Application Package, a procedure authorized under the 1996 Idaho Municipal Water Rights Act. UWI is seeking to consolidate its existing water rights, all but one of which involve ground water rights, through 99 transfers and 13 amendments.

IDWR staff has begun technical and legal processing of the application including publication of legal notice. There is no projected completion date for the approval process.

The Municipal Water Right Act allows municipal providers to hold water rights for increased use within a planning period to accommodate growth in expanding municipal service areas. The company's IMAP is designed to make its current water rights conform to the provisions of the Municipal Water Rights Act. It also makes minor corrections to a few of the rights.

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UWI says it anticipates a water demand of about 420 cubic feet per second (CFS) within 50 years. The company says the population in its service area will grow from 214,000 now to about 540,000 over the next 50 years.

UWI's existing water rights provide about 310 CFS, although current peak demand is about 150 CFS. The difference between the total of 310 CFS and the current peak demand is about 160 CFS, which UWI wants to hold to satisfy long-term water demands.

The company's applications also say it may need to acquire an additional 100 to 120 CFS over the next 50 years, but that additional water is not being asked for in the applications.

A full copy of the company's application package is available via the "Special Interest" section of the IDWR web site. The address is: **www.idwr.state.id.us**. You can also call the IDWR Western Regional Office in Boise at 334-2190.